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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 OIC-02 CIAE-00 ICA-11
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PLPE, SU, IS, IZ
SUBJ: SUDANESE CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI ATTACK ON
REF: KHARTOUM 5213

1. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI ATTRIBUTED HIS OWN CONDEMNATION OF THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE IRAQI NUCLEAR FACILITY TO THAT OF THE MFA (REFTEL) ON JUNE 10. NIMEIRI WAS ADDRESSING THE INAUGURATION OF THE NORTHERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY IN EL DAMER. ACCORDING TO SUNA, NIMEIRI SAID "THE ISRAELI ASSAULT...IS A FRESH PROOF THAT ISRAEL IS THE ENEMY OF ALL ARABS."

2. IN A SIMILAR VEIN, THE SUDANESE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AGREED ON JUNE 10 TO SEND A CABLE OF SUPPORT TO THE IRAQI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THAT DECISION WAS TAKEN FOLLOWING A STATEMENT BY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MOHAMED SULIMAN IN WHICH HE DECRIED THAT DIFFERENCES AMONG ARAB COUNTRIES ENCOURAGED ZIONIST AGGRESSION. THE ONLY DEFENSE AGAINST FURTHER AGGRESSION IS ARAB SOLIDARITY SUCH AS PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAS URGED, HE SAID.

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3. COMMENT: IN THESE STATEMENTS AND PRESS COVERAGE OF THE ISRAELI RAID IT IS CLEAR THAT SUDANESE REACTION IS ROOTED IN A BELIEF OF THEORETICAL ARAB SOLIDARITY IN WHICH AN ATTACK UPON ONE IS AN ATTACK UPON ALL. THE STATEMENTS ALSO REFLECT A PROFOUND FRUSTRATION IN THE REALITY OF ARAB DISUNITY, IN WHICH ISRAEL APPEARS TO BE ABLE TO ACT AGAINST ARAB INTERESTS WITH IMPUNITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SUDANESE LANGUAGE CONDEMNING ISRAEL WAS FAIRLY MEASURED. AND NIMEIRI'S COMMENTS CAME TWO FULL DAYS AFTER THE ISRAELI BOMBING WAS MADE PUBLIC, EVEN THOUGH HE HAD HAD AN EARLIER OPPORTUNITY WHEN HE ADDRESSED AN SSU-SPONSORED PUBLIC RALLY ON TUESDAY.

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